

MA THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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PRESS RELEASE

BAUHAUS PHOTOGRAPHS Through September 6, 1987

In conjunction with a major retrospective exhibition of works by Paul Klee, The Cleveland Museum of Art presents sixteen black-and-white photographs by instructors and students at The Bauhaus. The photographs, most taken during the 1920s, are on view in Gallery D through September 6.

Klee was a prominent faculty member at The Bauhaus from 1920-31. This influential school of art and design was founded in 1919 in Germany by architect Walter Gropius, who sought to unify the various arts--from painting to theater and weaving---into a truly modern synthesis of human creativity and industrial technology. Economy and function guided Bauhaus design.

Although The Bauhaus had no formal course of study in photography until 1929, many Bauhauselers experimented with photographic techniques in improvised darkrooms. These images of Bauhaus people, events, and architecture, many of which have a snapshot quality, capture an atmosphere of zany comradeship. Gertrud Arndt photographed a man standing on a stove, and a print by T. Lux Feininger shows a Bauhaus quartet hamming it up for the camera. Bauhaus artists frequently tried unusual camera angles, as seen in Feininger's diagonal shot of the Bauhaus building; an anonymous artist's bird's-eye portrait of a group of students; or Lucia Moholy's Portrait of Mrs. Kandinsky, which was taken from a close-up perspective.

The show was organized by Curator of Contemporary Art Tom Hinson. The photographs were lent by the Rudolf Kicken Gallery, Cologne, and the Prakapas Gallery, New York.